

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8, cancel claims 1, 2, 5 and 19 without prejudice or admission, and cancel non-elected claims 9-18, 20 and 21 subject to applicants' right to file a divisional application directed thereto, as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. - 2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) A photoelectric converter, comprising:

a photoelectric conversion circuit for generating an optical signal in correspondence to incident light;

a reset circuit connected to an output terminal of the photoelectric conversion circuit;

an amplification circuit connected to output terminals of the photoelectric conversion circuit and the reset circuit;

an electric charge transfer ~~means~~ unit having a terminal connected to an output terminal of the amplification circuit;

a capacitor connected to the other terminal of the electric charge transfer ~~means~~ unit;

a source follower amplifier having a gate connected to the electric charge transfer ~~means~~ unit and the capacitor;

a channel selection circuit connected to a source of the source follower amplifier; and

a common signal line to which an output terminal of the channel selection circuit is ~~connected~~, connected;

a first current source connected to the common signal line; and

a second current source connected to the source of the source follower amplifier;

wherein the capacitor holds a reference signal generated through resetting of the photoelectric conversion circuit by the reset circuit, and when the channel selection circuit is turned ON, the reference signal is read out from the capacitor to the common signal line, and then the electric charge transfer ~~means~~ unit is turned ON to read out the optical signal to the common signal line.

4. (currently amended) A photoelectric converter according to claim 3, 3; wherein after the reference signal and the optical signal are read out to the common signal line, the channel selection circuit is turned OFF, and the electric charge transfer ~~means~~ unit is turned ON to read out to the capacitor a reference signal generated through resetting of the photoelectric conversion circuit by the reset circuit.

5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended) A photoelectric converter according to claim 5, 3; wherein while the channel selection circuit is held in an ON state, the first current source is turned ON to cause a current to flow, and when the electric charge transfer means unit is turned ON to read out the reference signal to the capacitor, the second current source is turned ON to cause a current to flow.

7. (currently amended) A photoelectric converter according to claim 5, 3; wherein the current caused to flow through the second current source is substantially the same as that caused to flow through the first current source.

8. (currently amended) A photoelectric converter according to claim 5, 3; wherein the first and second current sources are constituted by MOS transistors, respectively, and drains of the MOS transistors are connected to a source of the source follower amplifier, and control for turning ON and OFF of the first and second current sources is carried out by changing gate voltages of the MOS transistors.

9. - 21. (canceled).